

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace paragraph [0041] with the following rewritten paragraph:

On the other hand, SiC powder as inorganic particles, an aluminosilicate fiber as an oxide fiber, an aqueous solution containing 40% by mass of ~~silica-gel~~ silica sol as a colloidal oxide, clay, and foamed resin were mixed, followed by adding water. The resultant mixture was kneaded using a mixer for 30 minutes to obtain bonding materials A to C having compositions shown in Table 1. It is to be noted that in Table 1 ~~silica-gel~~ silica sol means an aqueous solution containing 40% by mass of ~~silica-gel~~ silica sol.

Please replace paragraph [0042] with the following rewritten paragraph:

[Table 1]

| Bonding materials No. | SiC powder [% by mass] | Aluminosilicate fiber [% by mass] | Silica-gel <u>Silica sol</u> [% by mass] | Foamed resin [% by mass] | Clay [% by mass] | Water [% by mass] |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|
| A | 41 | 25 | 23 | 0 | 1 | 10 |
| B | 40 | 24 | 23 | 1 | 1 | 10 |
| C | 45 | 26 | 10 | 0 | 1 | 18 |